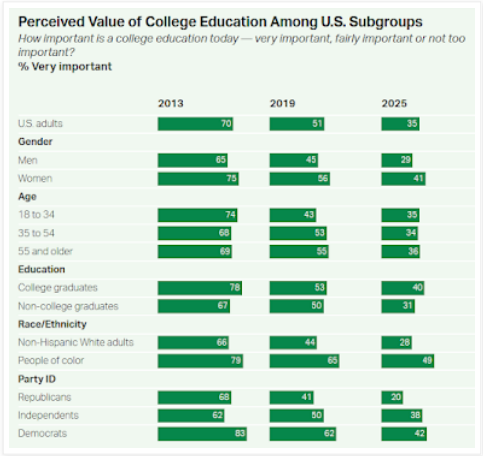
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

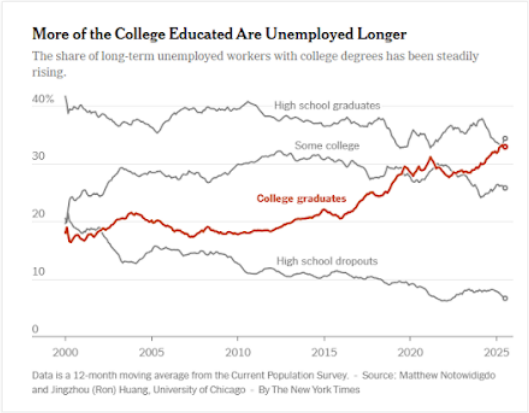
Sunday, September 21, 2025

Another Factor

There have been a number of articles of late indicating public opinion becoming dubious about the value of a college degree. For example, there is this from the Gallup Poll:*


Perceived Value of College Education Among U.S. Subgroups
How important is a college education today — very important, fairly important or not too important?
% Very important
2013 2019 2025
U.S. adults 70 51 35
Gender
Men 65 45 29
Women 75 56 41
Age
18 to 34 74 43 35
35 to 54 68 53 34
55 and older 69 55 36
Education
College graduates 78 53 40
Non-college graduates 67 50 31
Race/Ethnicity
Non-Hispanic White adults 66 44 28
People of color 79 65 49
Party ID
Republicans 68 41 20
Independents 62 50 38
Democrats 83 62 42

And there is this from the NY Times:**



So while there is a political element in public perceptions, the decline in the perception of the value of college degrees seems to have an important labor market element. It isn't all about perceptions of college "wokeness" by any means. The percentage of the population with a college degree has trended upward for decades:***

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025
- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
- Why Should We "Stand Up for the UC?" (Guest Post) - 9/1/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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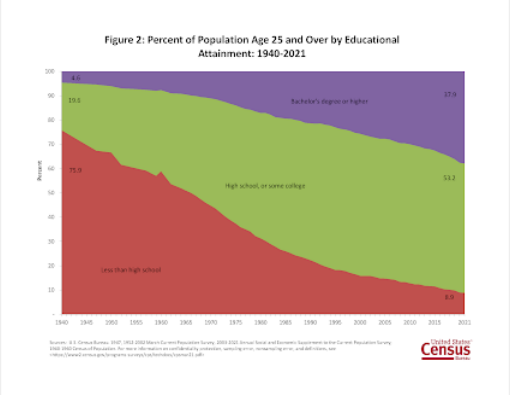
Figure 2: Percent of Population Age 25 and Over by Educational Attainment: 1940-2021
Bachelor's degree or higher
High school, or some college
Less than high school
Percent
United States Census Bureau

It may now have hit labor market limits.

The current Stand Up for UC campaign seems to reflect this development. For example, a recent video in that campaign refers to federal threats to UC hospitals, UC health research, and UC military research. The only mention of going to college is a reference to federal financial aid for students.

Or direct to https://x.com/uc_newsroom/status/1967692983752417555 or https://ia802901.us.archive.org/7/items/newsom-7-2-2025-arrests-of-immigrants/UC%20campaign%209-15-2025.mp4.

===

*https://news.gallup.com/poll/695003/perceived-importance-college-hits-new-low.aspx.

**https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/15/business/long-term-unemployment-college-grads.html.

***https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/time-series/demo/fig_2.png.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 108

From WECT: *WILMINGTON, N.C. - UNCW Chancellor Aswani Volety has released a statement following incidents this week on the campus involving students and a tribute in memory of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. Students affiliated with the candlelight vigil that was held Monday painted a spirit rock on campus in honor of Kirk, who died last week after getting shot at an event on a college campus in Utah. On Tuesday, UNCW police responded to a confrontation between two groups of students. Police stated that students around the rock were approached by students who wanted to repaint the rock.*

Police say the conversation eventually became confrontational, and students who wanted to change the rock poured paint onto the rock. Some students attempted to prevent this, but they were splashed with paint. The chancellor referred to the memorial in Kirk's honor as well as the incident involving the spirit rock in his statement released [last] Thursday afternoon...

Full story at https://www.wect.com/2025/09/18/uncw-chancellor-releases-statement-regarding-incidents-campus/.

From WRAL: *A lockdown at the University of North Carolina is clear Thursday night after the school received unconfirmed reports of a person with a gun on campus earlier in the evening. Just before midnight, the university posted on a X that the lockdown was lifted and that there is no credible threat to campus. Out of caution, however, the university cancelled classes and all assignments and exams are postponed for Friday. In an update released Friday morning, UNCW Chancellor Aswani Volety said he was on campus with around 35 members of the*

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

community during the lockdown, where they all waited for three hours until campus police could clear the scene...

Full story at https://www.wral.com/news/local/uncw-lockdown-reports-gunman-september-2025/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, U of North Carolina

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Announcement Affecting Foreign Faculty and Some Students

From an email circulated earlier today:

Dear UCLA H-1B Visa holders,

As you may know, a Presidential Proclamation* was issued on September 19, 2025, that restricts entry of H-1B specialty occupation workers unless employers pay a $100,000 fee per petition. As we understand it, the fee requirement is initially effective for one year, beginning September 21, 2025, and ending September 21, 2026.

The Whitehouse [sic] has issued information** that seems to indicate that the Proclamation is for new H-1B visa applicants, which would be welcome news. However, logistics and implementation details have not been released by the Department of Homeland Security or Department of State, so there is still uncertainty about how this policy will be enforced. We are still in the process of analyzing the potential impact of this Proclamation on the UCLA community. While many details remain unknown, we are sharing recommendations based on the text of the proclamation.

- If you currently hold an H-1B status and are outside the United States, you may be impacted by this Proclamation.
- The restrictions of this Proclamation will apply to individuals on an H-1B visa entering or attempting to enter the U.S. after **Saturday 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (8:59 PST) on September 20, 2025 (TODAY).**
- Any H-1B holder who has plans to travel in the next few days, we suggest waiting to make or change plans until next week when there will likely be more clarity.
- It is our understanding that H-1B status holders already in the United States as of that date will not be directly impacted, unless they depart and attempt to reenter the country.
- It is also our understanding that this proclamation will impact both H-1B visa holders initially entering the U.S. in H-1B status and H-1B who have renewed their visa and re-entered the U.S.
- The proclamation notes that in the future there will be possible exceptions; but as of now, there are no known exceptions. We will send out more details as we can gather further information.
- Entry to the U.S. using other visa categories (e.g. B-1, B-2) to perform employment-based related activities is discouraged.

If you do not come back to the U.S. before the deadline, please do not plan to travel Sunday or early next week until we have more guidance. If you are outside the U.S. and cannot re-enter due to the proclamation, please email us at **chr@chr.ucla.edu** for campus employees and at mchrbenefitsteam@mednet.ucla.edu for Health employees

Sincerely,

Michael J. Beck
Administrative Vice Chancellor

Monroe Gorden Jr.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
===

*https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/restriction-on-entry-of-certain-nonimmigrant-workers/.

**https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/09/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-suspends-the-entry-of-certain-alien-nonimmigrant-workers/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:56 PM No comments:

Labels: diversity, UCLA

The (Seemingly) Endless Story - Part 6

It may be hard to recall, given all the other concerns swirling around Harvard, but there is the continuing Gino saga. If you don't recall it, Gino was a noted expert at the Harvard Business School in the field of honesty who was accused of faking data.*

Ultimately, Harvard terminated her and then was sued by her. Now the Empire has struck back:

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard sued behavioral scientist Francesca Gino for defamation in August, alleging the former Harvard Business School professor sent the school a falsified dataset to prove she did not commit data fraud. The University's lawyers accused Gino of modifying a spreadsheet on her laptop, then manually backdating it to 2010, so it would appear that she had been sent false data by another researcher rather than altered it herself.*

Gino, who rose to prominence for her work on honesty, was accused in 2021 of manipulating data in four studies. HBS placed her on administrative leave in 2023 after an internal investigation determined she had committed research misconduct, then fired her in May after revoking her tenure. But Gino has battled Harvard's penalties in court since August 2023, accusing the University of defaming her, mishandling her tenure review process, and engaging in sex-based discrimination against her in violation of Title IX and Title VII policies.

Now, Harvard is turning the tables on Gino. In its counterclaim, filed on Aug. 18, the University alleged that she falsely accused HBS of ignoring exonerating evidence in its investigation process. But that evidence, Harvard claimed, was "invented out of thin air." Harvard has asked the judge in the case to award an unspecified amount in damages...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/12/harvard-sues-gino/.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/07/the-seemingly-endless-story-part-5.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Straws in the Wind - Part 107

From the Minnesota Star Tribune: *Some faculty are warning that a plan to lay off seven tenured professors at Minnesota State University, Mankato, could spell the end of tenure at the school. In August, administrators announced a plan to cut costs by eliminating seven tenured positions through a year-long process called "retrenchment."*

The faculty association said in a statement that they were caught by surprise, believing there would be no layoffs of tenured staff due to the school already cutting almost a hundred courses and raising tuition by 8%. "This approach reduces tenure and collective bargaining to empty promises," the faculty association's statement said. "If this proposed retrenchment is enacted, it will effectively dismantle the institution of tenure at our university."

The school respects the laws on tenure, said David Hood, the provost at Minnesota State Mankato and senior vice president for academic affairs. But MSUM needs to be run more like a business, Hood said in a phone call Monday. "We're no longer in this space of privilege where we're able to not operate like a business," Hood said. "And in businesses, you staff your

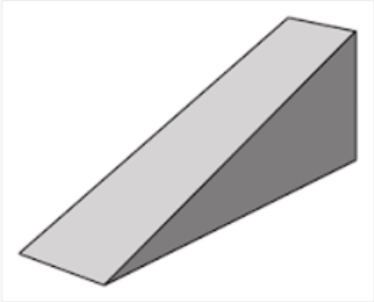
organization based upon supply and demand, and we have to make that shift in higher ed to where we are flexible enough that we're able to adjust." ...

Full story at https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-state-university-mankato-tenured-professor-layoffs/601472177.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Minnesota State University

Inclined



From the LA Times: *A federal judge Thursday said she was "inclined to extend" an earlier ruling and order the Trump administration to restore an additional $500 million in UCLA medical research grants that were frozen in response to the university's alleged campus antisemitism violations. Although she did not issue a formal ruling late Thursday, U.S. District Judge Rita F. Lin indicated she is leaning toward reversing — for now — the vast majority of funding freezes that University of California leaders say have endangered the future of the 10-campus, multi-hospital system...*

The judge's reasoning: The UCLA grants were suspended by form letters that were unspecific to the research, a likely violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, which regulates executive branch rule-making...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2025-09-18/ucla-nih-grants-federal-judge-500-million.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, public funding, UCLA

Friday, September 19, 2025

Another Scam

The NY Times carries a story about the Chase-Zelle scam which, the reporter said, almost fooled him. Excerpt:

...The caller asked for me by name and stated in measured tones that he was from Chase Bank and he wanted to verify transfers being made from my account to someone in Texas. Wrong number, I said. I don't have a Chase account.

But one was recently opened in your name, he replied, with two Zelle transfers. And minutes ago, someone tried to transfer those funds, $2,100, to San Antonio. Now, this carried the whiff of plausibility. I'm one of some 150 million people who has access to Zelle, the payments platform that lets you send and receive money from your phone. But my scam radar was also fully operational and pinging. "How do I know this isn't a scam?" I asked, sounding like that guy in every movie who asks an undercover cop if he's a cop.

He had a quick answer. Look at the number showing on your phone and Google it, he replied. "Now look up the Chase branch at 3 Times Square," he instructed. "See the office phone number?" I did, and it matched the one on my phone's screen...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/18/nyregion/zelle-chase-banking-scam.html.

Poking around on the web, I find that the Chase-Zelle scam is sometimes a CitiBank-Zelle scam (and probably other banks). But the lesson is *always* the same. No matter how convincing or urgent the message seems, always hang up and call the bank directly. Do not do anything the caller suggests. If it's your bank, you have a phone number on your related ATM/debit card. Call that number yourself. If it isn't your bank, look up the number on the web and call directly.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:44 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud